
MEDIA ADVISORY

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COSTUMES, PHOTOGRAPHS PART OF MARDI GRAS INDIAN EXHIBIT
AT LOUISIANA STATE ARCHIVES

Secretary of State Jay Dardenne is proud to welcome the work of Baton Rouge photographer J. Nash Porter and his photographs of Mardi Gras Indians to the Louisiana State Archives as part of its Black History Month exhibit.

The exhibit highlights a unique Louisiana celebration of Mardi Gras by an often overlooked population dating back to the 1700s. The Mardi Gras Indians artifacts recently returned from a successful six month display at the Smithsonian Anacostia Museum in Washington, D.C., and include colorful photographs, a complete costume and the hand beaded work of club members, or "patches."

"The hand beaded works are extraordinary pieces," state archivist Dr. Florent Hardy said. "The research, time and efforts of the members are to be commended."

Also included in the exhibit is a child's Indian dress pulled from the floodwaters in New Orleans. The dress is still covered in mud from Hurricane Katrina. An accompanying photograph and brief biography of the child are part of the exhibit.

This one-of-a-kind exhibit will be on display in the Louisiana Room of the Louisiana State Archives, 3851 Essen Lane in Baton Rouge, through March 30, 2007. The public is invited to view the exhibit during regular Archives hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is free.

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